

Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ITF-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 AF-06 ARA-06 EA-06 EUR-12 NEA-10 SR-02 ORM-01

HEW-02 AID-05 DPW-01 EB-07 OMB-01 TRSE-00 SSO-00 /119 W
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FM USMISSION USUN NY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 401

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 1699

PASS TO EA:VN AID

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EAID, VS, VN, UNICEF, UNHCR, FR, AU

SUBJECT: UN HUMANITARIAN AID TO VIETNAM

REF: USUN 1643

1. THIS MSG RECOUNTS LATEST MISOFF CONVERSATION WITH SIR ROBERT JACKSON, UN COORDINATOR FOR HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO VIETNAM. PURPOSE OF CONVERSATION WAS TO OBTAIN FROM SIR ROBERT SOME IDEA OF THE MAGNITUDE OF DISPLACED PERSON PROBLEM WITHIN SOUTH VIETNAM AND SOME IDEA OF THE PROGRAM OF THE NEW GOVERNMENT TO COPE WITH DISPLACED PERSONS.

2. SIR ROBERT UNABLE TO ENLIGHTEN MISOFF WITH REGARD THESE QUESTIONS. REASON FOR LACK OF HARD INFORMATION IS THAT DIRECT COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN NYC AND SAIGON ONLY BROUGHT INTO SERVICE AS OF 11 AM EDT YESTERDAY MAY 20, ALSO BECAUSE MAKE-UP OF NEW GOVERNMENT, INCLUDING MINISTRY WITH REFUGEE RESPONSIBILITIES, UNKNOWN; AND BECAUSE LIMITED UN PERSONNEL IN SAIGON WHO UNABLE NOT ONLY TO MONITOR DELIVERIES BUT ALSO UNCLEAR AS TO
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WHERE TO TO GO TO GET INFORMATION.

3. GENERALLY CURRENT PRACTICE FOR DELIVERY RELIEF SUPPLIES IS THROUGH HANPOI, AT WHICH POINT ITEMS ARE TURNED OVER TO LOCAL AUTHORITIES FOR SHIPMENT TO THE SOUTH.

4. AS NOTED REFTEL SIR ROBERT NOT PARTICULARLY HAPPY WITH PRG LISTS (THE TOTALITY OF THE "AUBRAC LIST" AND UNICEF/UNHCR LISTS) AND SEES NEED TO ASSIST SAIGON GOVERNMENT IN PREPARING LIST WHICH WOULD TIE INTO NEEDS OF THE GOVERNMENT (I.E. WOULD TIE IN WITH THE NOW MISSING HARD FACTS). NOW THAT COMMUNICATIONS OPEN AND, ACCORDING TO SIR ROBERT, COMMUNIST EMBASSIES ARE BEING ESTABLISHED, IT IS HIS ESTIMATE THAT UN WILL SOON BE IN POSITION TO GET THE HARD FACTS. HE INDICATED THAT HE SEES NEED FOR ESTABLISHING A SMALL MISSION IN SAIGON FOR HUMANITARIAN EFFORT (COMMENT: THIS PRESUMABLY WOULD BE OFFSHOOT OF MISSION MENTIONED REFTEL TO ASSIST SAIGON AUTHORITIES IN PREPARATION OF A PROPER LIST).

5. COMMENT: MISOFF GAINED DISTINCT IMPRESSION DURING COURSE OF CONVERSATION THAT SIR ROBERT IS INCREASINGLY MOLDING HIS EFFORT WITH A VIEW TO ULTIMATELY OBTAINING USG SUPPORT. HE VOLUNTEERED, FOR EXAMPLE, THAT PERSON WHO WOULD HEAD SAIGON MISSION WOULD BE A PERSON WITH A GOOD PERFORMANCE RECORD AND KNOWN TO THE UNITED STATES. ADDITIONALLY, HE VOLUNTEERED THOUGHT THAT HE HAS TO MOVE WITH SPEED NOW THAT GOVERNMENTAL SITUATION IN SAIGON APPEARS TO BE SOMEWHAT CLEARER AND COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN NYC AND SAIGON ARE OPEN, SINCE A FLOOD IN BANGLADESH OR ANOTHER HONDURAN TYPE HURRICANE COULD DIVERT US ATTENTION ELSEWHERE. FINALLY, HE VOLUNTEERED HIS CONCERN WITH NEED TO MONITOR DELIVERIES, SHOULD A PROGRAM OF ANY SIZE BE UNDERTAKEN. WITH REGARD LATTER POINT SIR ROBERT VERY MUCH AWARE OF US CONGRESSIONAL CONCERNS FOR ACCOUNTABILITY, WHICH HE INDICATED ARE TOUGHER THAN FOR ANY OTHER DONOR COUNTRY. HE ALSO NOTED THAT THERE IS NEED FOR EDUCATION ON BOTH SIDES: ON THE COMMUNIST SIDE, A NEED TO RECOGNIZE NECESSITY OF ACCOUNTABILITY; AND

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ON THE DONOR SIDE, A NEED TO RECOGNIZE THAT A COMMUNIST STATE BY ITS VERY NATURE HAS TIGHT CONTROLS AND HENCE THERE PROBABLY IS LESS NEED FOR THE KIND OF MONITORING MACHINERY THAT MIGHT BE REQUIRED IN A MORE OPEN SOCIETY.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN ASSISTANCE, FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS, INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, FOOD ASSISTANCE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 MAY 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975USUNN01699
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750180-1023
From: USUN NEW YORK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750525/aaaaawlq.tel
Line Count: 112
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 USUN 1643
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 30 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <30 JUN 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <10 NOV 2003 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: UN HUMANITARIAN AID TO VIETNAM
TAGS: PFOR, EAID, VS, VN, FR, AU, UNICEF, UNHCR, UN
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006